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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## CATAWBA COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD HONORS CHRIS JOHNSON

HICKORY -- Chris Johnson, outgoing member of the Catawba County Board of Social Services, was recently honored by the board with a resolution and certificate of appreciation.

Johnson has served two terms on the board, from July 2007 to June 2013. The resolution commended Johnson for his support of the county agency in meeting citizens' needs through improved service delivery for the total community, including infants, young children, adolescents, adults, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens in a way that enhances their lives.

It also praised his efforts in making the community aware of the types of assistance offered by social services, and for his assistance and support of the agency's staff and management. The resolution continues, "Catawba County is a better place to live, work, play, worship, and to rear a family because of Chris Johnson's personal and community involvement and leadership."

Johnson is founder and director of the Young People of Integrity mentoring program. He is employed by the Catawba County School System as ESTEEM Program coordinator at the



Catawba County Social Services Board Chair Jennie Connor presents Chris Johnson with a certificate of appreciation for his six years of service on the board. The board also adopted a resolution in his honor.

Catawba Rosenwald Education Center. ESTEEM stands for "Empowering Students Through Education, Employment and Mentorships." The program provides individualized academic, emotional and behavioral support for student success.

Johnson is a native of Kings Mountain, N.C. He holds a bachelor's degree in teaching from Gardner-Webb University and is a certified substance abuse prevention counselor. He has 17 years of experience in the public schools and worked five years as a substance abuse prevention counselor at Cognitive Connections.